had increased from Rs. 1760 crores in 1983-84 to Rs. 1827 crores in 1984-85. This Ministry monitors the production of 87 essential bulk drugs which account for 80 per cent of the total production of bulk drugs in the country. In comparison with the year 1983-84, production of 61 bulk drugs registered an increase ranging from 2.3 per cent to 186.6 per cent in 1984-85. Decrease in production was less than 10 per cent in respect of 7 drugs. Production of other bulk drugs has been less because of various reasons including production being tailored to demand, drug obsolescence production problems, etc. The gap between demand and indigenous production was met by imports which are regulated under the Import and Export Policy.

Fertilizers companies in Joint Sector

510. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up four new fertilizer companies in the joint sector; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) There is no proposal by the Central Government to set up new fertilizer companies in the joint sector.

(b) Does not arise.

Electoral Reforms

511. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 8 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 29th April, 1985 and state:

(a) whether Government have recently received any report from the Election Commission making a number of recommendations to cleanse the electoral process of malpractices; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI ASOKE KUMAR SEN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Taking into account the experience gained during the elections to Lok Sabha held in December last and to State Assemblies in March this year, the Commission has taken stock of the situation and its fresh recommendations are contained in the Second Annual Report (pages 77-84) which was laid on the Table of the House on the 13th May, 1985. Some of the more important recommendations made by the Election Commission are detailed in the attached statement.

Statement

Proposals for Electoral Reforms

(1) *Elimination of non-serious candidates:*

(a) Security deposit may be raised ten times.

(b) A candidate who fails to secure 20 per cent of the valid votes polled may be disqualified.

(c) The minimum number of votes required for refund of security deposit may be increased from one-sixth to one-fourth.

(d) The facilities like priority allotment of telephone connection immunity from requisition of vehicles, subsidised supply of paper for printing posters, etc. will not be available to independent candidates.

(e) Part of the election expenses of candidates sponsored by recognised political parties may be met by the Government in kind through supply of free electoral rolls, subsidization of time bought on AIR/TV according to agreed norms etc.

(f) Nomination is to be subscribed by at least one proposer from each of the component assembly constituencies in the case of a parliamentary election subject to a maximum of ten proposers. In the case of an assembly election, nomination should be subscribed by at least one proposer each from different polling areas subject to a maximum of ten proposers.

(g) In the list of contesting candidates and in ballot papers recognised National and State parties would be grouped together and their names would be arranged in alphabetical orders first and thereafter the names of the remaining candidates arranged in alphabetical orders.

(2) *Bar on contesting elections from more than two constituencies:*

No person should be allowed to contest an election from more than two constituencies in a general election to Lok Sabha or Legislative Assembly or in simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assembly or in the case of bye-elections involving two or more seats.

(3) *Disqualification of persons with criminal records:*

Persons with proven criminal records and a shady past, history-sheeters and persons whose detention/externment under N. S. A., E. S. M. A., C. O. F. E. P. O. S. A., F. E. R. A., Goonda Act (where in force) etc. has been approved by the Judicial Advisory Boards constituted under the above Acts etc. to be disqualified from contesting elections subject to taking adequate safeguards for prevention of arbitrary use of this power by the ruling party. The term "criminal record" may be defined in consultation with the political parties.

A person convicted by a court in India for any offence involving moral turpitude shall be disqualified even if he is sentenced for less than two years. Conviction by the lowest court should be treated as attracting disqualification unless actually and finally acquitted by appellate courts.

(4) *Punitive measures to check disturbances at election meetings:*

Persons resorting to violence during election campaign including those who disturb election meetings should be tried summarily and if convicted should be disqualified.

(5) *Fraudulent filing of nomination papers from Kakatpur Assembly Constituency in Orissa—Steps to prevent recurrence of such cases.*

Commission has recommended to the Government the following steps:

(1) In the case of election to parliamentary constituency, nomination paper should be signed by at least one proposer from each assembly segment, but not exceeding ten in number in all. Similarly in the case of assembly election, each nomination paper should be signed by one proposer from each electoral part of the respective constituency, but not exceeding ten in number in all.

(2) it should be obligatory on the part of the candidate to furnish his photograph or of one of his proposers in case he is presenting the nomination form in the absence of the candidate.

(3) The photograph(s) furnished with the nomination paper should be duly attested by a Gazetted Officer of the Central Government/ State Government or sitting MP or MLA or MLC.

(4) The candidate or one of his proposers who presented the nomination in the absence of the candidate should be present at the time

of the scrutiny of nomination papers and the Returning Officer should satisfy himself about the identity of the candidate.

To give effect to the above recommendations, Commission has also suggested amendments to Sections 33 and 36 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and Forms 2A and 2B appended to the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961.

(6) *Booth-Capturing.*

The Commission had decided to take effective measures to nip this evil practice in the bud. Accordingly, it has been recommended to insert a new Section 135A to the Representation of the People Act, 1951. somewhat on the following lines:—

135A. *Booth Capturing:*

(1) A person shall be guilty of booth-capturing at an election if he—

(a) arms himself with lethal weapons, seizes a polling booth or station, makes the polling party surrender the ballot papers, marks them with the voting mark in favour of a candidate of his choice and file up the ballot boxes with these ballot papers;

(b) takes possession of polling booth or station and allows only his known supporters to exercise their franchise and drives away others;

(c) entertains polling officials with food, drinks, etc. and influences them to act in a manner so as to subserve his interest; or

(d) threatens any elector and prevents such elector from going to the polling booth/station to cast his vote.

(2) Any person guilty of an offence under this section shall be punishable with imprisonment for a period which may extend to two years with a minimum of six months or with a fine which may extend to two thousand rupees or with both;

(3) An offence punishable under sub-section (2) shall be cognizable and attempt or abetment shall also constitute an offence.

A new section 10B has also been proposed somewhat on the following lines:—

10B. Disqualification for committing the offence of booth capturing—If the Election Commission is satisfied that a person is guilty of the electoral offence of booth-capturing including attempt or abetment thereof mentioned in section 135A of this Act, the Election Commission shall by Order published in the Official Gazette, declare him to be disqualified for a period of six years from the date of the Order.

It has also been suggested that if after an enquiry the Commission is satisfied that booth-capturing has taken place at any polling station in a constituency, it should have the power to cancel the poll in the entire constituency and order a re-poll.

बरौनी में पेट्रो-केमिकल्स कम्पलेक्स की स्थापना

512. **श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव :** क्या पेट्रोलियम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) बरौनी तेलशोधक कारखाना कब स्थापित किया गया था ;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि पेट्रो-केमिकल्स कम्पलेक्स उन स्थानों पर स्थापित किए गए हैं या स्थापित करने का विचार है जहां बरौनी तेलशोधक कारखाने के बाद तेलशोधक कारखाने